FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

The evacuation of Palestinian forces from Tripoli by five Greek ships will begin on 18 December, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* according to KUNA. A Greek Government spokesman declared that the ships will pick up 'Arafat and his forces early on 19 December, according to Athens radio. The spokesman added that consultations with the U.S., French, Syrian, Israeli, Italian, British, and Lebanese governments secured guarantees for the safety of the Greek ships and crews and for 'Arafat and his men.

Israeli "political circles" stressed that Israel has given "no guarantees or any other promises regarding the Greek ships," according to Jerusalem radio. The "very least" that Israel expects from those assisting 'Arafat is that they require him to lay down his arms and promise that he and his people will never again engage in terrorist activity, Defense Minister Moshe Arens declared in remarks broadcast by the radio. Unless 'Arafat satisfies these conditions, Arens said, no assistance should be given to him.

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Lebanese Government and the main opposition coalition have agreed to a "permanent and serious cease-fire" to take effect immediately, AFP reported on 16 December citing an opposition source. The new cease-fire announcement followed further fighting around Beirut the previous day in which U.S. warships again shelled hostile positions, according to Beirut radio. The battleship *New Jersey* participated in the shelling, during which U.S. warships destroyed a number of positions in the mountains around Beirut occupied by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its allies, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, AFP reported that three French soldiers were injured in a bomb attack in Beirut and confirmed the deaths of two French soldiers earlier. The headquarters of the British contingent was hit by a rocket but no casualties were sustained, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Political Developments — Lebanon hopes to declare the date and venue of the second round of the National Dialogue Conference soon, President Amin al-Jumayyil announced in a statement in London broadcast by Beirut radio. The Lebanese hope the second round will lay the basis for complete reconciliation and will "define the prerogatives" of an expanded national unity government that will carry out internal reforms and arrange the withdrawal of the Multinational Force after the departure of non-Lebanese occupation forces, he added.

Dayr al-Qamar — The IDF completed the first stage of the evacuation of Dayr al-Qamar, transporting about 2,000 Phalangist militiamen from the town in IDF trucks while 500 Christian refugees left in buses, according to Jerusalem television and radio reports. However, the Lebanese Government did not fulfill its commitment to issue an official announcement presenting the evacuation as an agreement achieved in the deliberations of the joint Israeli-Lebanese military committee, the television asserted.

Syria

The head of Lebanese Army intelligence arrived in Damascus for talks "shrouded in absolute secrecy," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri also came to Damascus, while presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld held further talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam before departing, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided Iranian targets in Dehloran and Ilam on 15 December, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The attacks were in response to Iran's failure to respond to peace efforts, its continued shelling of Iraqi civilian targets, and its responsibility for "heinous crimes" against fraternal Arab countries, the spokesman stated. Confirming the air raids, IRNA reported that 10 civilians were hospitalized after the attack on Ilam but that no casualties were caused in Dehloran.

A joint revolution guards-Armed Forces statement reported by Tehran radio warned that Iranian soldiers and revolution guards will "take revenge on all the vile agents of East and West for the blood of these martyrs." Meanwhile, the Iranian deputy foreign minister told the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran that Kuwait should condemn the Iraqi missile attacks, which were launched on the "pretext" of defending Kuwait in an attempt to create more tension in the region, the radio noted.

Jordan

Dialogue between the two superpowers is necessary in order to tackle the peace process in the Middle East and the European countries should actively encourage Soviet participation in order to avoid the increasing threat of polarization and a "tragic explosion," King Husayn told the European Parliament in a speech broadcast by Amman radio. The king criticized U.S. "reluctance" to work "firmly and immediately" toward establishing peace and asserted that the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic agreements will result in U.S. funding for Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, thereby "flouting the form and substance" of President Reagan's peace plan. Jordan had pinned "great hopes" on the Reagan plan, he added, but the vitality of the initiative has disappeared and the momentum for peace has dwindled.

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Karachi Reports Attack on Defense Ministry
BK151545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] According to delayed reports from Afghanistan, the Afghan mujahidin intensified their operations during the month of November in Konar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar, and Kabul Provinces, inflicting heavy casualties on the Soviet-installed Karmal regime forces. More than 250 officers and soldiers, including 5 Soviet advisers, were reportedly killed and over 500 injured during the mujahidin attacks at various places.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin attacked the Ministry of Defense in Kabul, killing and wounding a number of people and damaging the ministry building.

Electricity generating stations also came under heavy attack. Transmission lines were damaged, which resulted in the disruption of the city's electricity supply.

'Counterrevolutionaries Crushed' in Four Provinces
LD151851 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Counterrevolutionaries — these enemies of people's peace and the progress of revolutionary Afghanistan, who are on the brink of annihilation — have been crushed during the past week in Balkh, Faryab, Parvan, and Qonduz Provinces. Assorted weapons, antitank mines, rocket launchers, and tens of thousands of rounds of light and heavy weapons ammunition were seized from these criminals.

A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a spokesman of the security forces in the above provinces, reports that these criminals' ringleaders were: (Pahlawan Sakhi), (Abdor Rahaman), (Abdol Malik), [Name indistinct] — nicknamed (Malakhan Ehsan), (Shah Mardan Qol), and (Abdol Majid) — nicknamed (Toran), their commander in Faryab Province.

A number of these criminals in (Bahdadi) Subdistrict, (Nahr-e Shahi) District and capital of [name indistinct]; Bagram and Qara Bagh Districts, Parvan Province; and (Archin) village in Qonduz Province were gunned down by revolution defense groups, officers and men of the Army and sarandoy force of the above provinces.

The report adds that in Faryab Province, 17 of these saboteurs and murderers, with their weapons and documents, were arrested by the security forces as were seven others in Parvan Province.

Release of Those Arrested in Dhaka Violence Announced

BK151001 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The government has decided to withdraw cases against all persons connected with the incidents of the 22d and the 28th of last month in Dhaka and release those who are already under custody in this connection. It was officially announced that a large number of persons are also being released from outlying districts.

This decision has been taken by the government as a gesture of good will with a view to creating a congenial atmosphere for restoration of democracy in the country. The government sincerely hopes all concerned will appreciate and reciprocate the spirit in which the step has been taken and will extend full cooperation to the government in promoting a peaceful atmosphere, which is virtually necessary for transition to democracy and also for implementation of the development programs.

Victory Day Celebrated, Ershad Message Cited

BK160346 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The nation celebrates the victory day today in a befitting manner. The day is a public holiday and the national flag is flying atop all public and private buildings.

In a message on the occasion, President Ershad has called for a fresh vow to build Bangladesh into a prosperous happy home, free from exploitation. He said our celebrations of the victory day will be real and meaningful only when the dreams of the lakhs of shaheed [martyrs] could be materialized and we could bring smiles on the face of the teeming millions of the country. It is the responsibility of every one among us to help build this country anew, and with that end, we all must embark on the arduous struggle of national reconstruction in the same spirit with which the millions of our freedom-loving people launched their united struggle for independence. We must move ahead with the same strength of mind and spirit toward our cherished goal.

Recalling the efforts of his government, General Ershad said immediately after takeover 20 months ago, the new administration was gripped with the task of bringing about a series of public welfare reforms and measures. The sole aim was to make political independence meaningful through bringing about economic emancipation for the people. Results of these steps will be judged by the people in due course, but in the meanwhile, a new wave of aspirations and a new spree of development activities could be seen all over the country.

President Ershad said side by side with developing program, we have initiated the process for reestablishing real democracy in the country. What we need most at this hour is united and dedicated efforts with honesty, understanding and sincerity in an atmosphere of undisturbed peace and discipline. On its own part, the government has not spared any effort and necessary measures have been taken to create a congenial atmosphere in the country. But, he said, people from all walks of life, especially the political parties, will have to come forward to carry out this onerous responsibility. Our people continue to rely on us, and it is the responsibility of all of us to bring smiles to their faces.

On this auspicious occasion, he also announced that all under trial and convicted freedom fighters will be released except those detained for treason.

Special prayers will be offered at all mosques and other places of workship for peace and prosperity of the nation.

A combined parade will be held at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the morning by the Armed Forces, Bangladesh Rifles, police, Bangladesh National Cadet Corps, Ansars [paramilitary force], and Village Defense Party, followed by Air Force [word indistinct] and mobile mechanized columns where President Ershad will take salute.

Six honorary lieutenants and nine junior commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Army have been granted honorary commission in the rank of honorary captain and honorary lieutenants respectively. Two honorary sublieutenants and three MCPO's [as heard] of the Bangladesh Navy have been granted honorary promotions in the rank of honorary lieutenants and honorary sublieutenants respectively.

It has been officially announced in Dhaka that 203 persons are to be released from custody on the occasion of the victory day. This is in addition to those who were connected with the incidents of the 22d and 28th November and have been already released by the government.

BSS Report

BK160947 Dhaka BSS in English 0930 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 16, BSS — Bangladesh is celebrating the 12th anniversary of victory day today with great enthusiasm and traditional fervour.

December 16, 1971 is a red letter day in the history of Bangladesh, signifying the victory of the nations struggle for independence through the surrender of occupation army after nine month long war.

The programme included wreath laying at the Jatiyo Smriti Soudha (memorial for the unknown martyrs), combined parade, air display, seminar and symposium on the significance of the day and illuminination of public and private buildings. Large number of people from all walks of life gathered at Manik Miah Avenue to witness the parade.

President Lt. Gen. H.H. Ershad in a message to the nation on the occasion called for taking renewed pledge to materialise the hopes and aspiration of the 3 million martyrs of the liberation war.

The day was heralded with 31 gun salute and hoisting of national flag atop all public and private buildings.

Venkataraman on Meeting Pakistani Arms Threat

BK161021 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, told the Lok Sabha today that India has sufficient equipment and missiles to meet any threat consequent upon Pakistan acquiring sophisticated arms and equipment. Replying to a question, he said at the moment India is not lagging behind Pakistan in electronic surveillance systems. But there are reports that Pakistan is getting some more sophisticated electronic equipment. The government is aware of its implications, and it is watching the latest developments in defense systems both in the United States and in the Soviet Union.

In reply to another question, Mr Venkataraman said the government also knows about certain movements and deployment of Pakistan Army along the borders. It may be the usual exercise, but government has no information to the contrary, he added.

Gandhi Expresses 'Distress' Over Kuwait Bombings

BK160426 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister has expressed distress at the recent bomb blast in Kuwait. In a message to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Mrs Gandhi said such acts of violence involving innocent civilians are a matter of deep regret. This is even more so as they serve no cause.

According to reports reaching New Delhi, 13 Indians were also injured in the 6 bomb blasts, but none seriously. They are mostly employees of the local U.S. Embassy.

UNGA Call for Nuclear-Free South Asia Opposed

BK160457 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] At the United Nations, India has again opposed the move for a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia. The general assembly adopted a resolution moved by Pakistan for the establishment of such a zone. India has all along made it clear that the setting up of such zones will not help because no region can ensure its safety just by giving up its own nuclear options.

Gandhi, Zhivkov Issue Press Statement

BK151045 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] India and Bulgaria have called for a halt to the arms race and immediate steps for detente. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the Bulgarian president, Mr Zhivkov, also stressed the need for creating a climate of confidence and understanding. This was stated in a joint press statement issued in New Delhi today at the end of Mr Zhivkov's visit to India.

Mrs Gandhi drew Mr Zhivkov's attention to the danger of an ever-increasing nuclear arms race and the stalemate in the disarmament negotiations. She emphasized the urgent need to break the present impasse in the dialogue on disarmament.

She acquainted Mr Zhivkov with the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement to promote a dialogue on major international, political, and economic issues affecting peace and development. She also apprised him of the results of the recent Commonwealth summit. The situation in West Asia and the Indian Ocean also figured in their talks.

During the meeting of the two delegations, the Bulgarian side gave its assessment of the situation in Europe, particularly at the context [as heard] of deployment of American nuclear missiles in Europe.

The two sides also reviewed the steady development of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction.

Both President Giani Zail Singh and the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, have accepted the invitation of Mr Zhivkov to visit Bulgaria.

Mr Zhivkov left Bombay for home this morning at the end of his 5-day state visit to India.

President Departs for 3-day Visit to CSSR

BK151025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The president, Giani Zail Singh, left New Delhi for Prague this morning on a 3-day visit to Czechoslovakia. This is his first state visit abroad after assuming the office of president. The tour will also take him to Qatar and Bahrain.

Giani Zail Singh was seen off at Delhi Airport by the vice president, Mr Hidayatullah, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and other leaders.

The president is accompanied by a high-power delegation, including a secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Ramesh Bhandari. Mr Khurshid Alam Khan is accompanying him as minister in waiting.

Coverage of Visit

For CSSR coverage of President Singh's visit to the CSSR, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 16 December Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.*

Energy Minister, Poland's Obodowski Hold Meting

BK160658 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The energy minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, says experts from India and Poland should identify new areas of cooperation to take full advantage of the existing industrial bases for mutual benefit. He was addressing the first plenary meeting of the eighth session of the Indo-Polish joint commission in New Delhi.

The Polish deputy premier, Mr Janusz Obodowski, who is also the cochairman of the Indo-Polish joint ccommission said his country is reorienting its trade in favor of the developing and nonaligned countries especially India.

Reportage on YAR Minister's Visit

Rao Hosts Dinner

BK141015 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] India has reaffirmed that lasting peace in West Asia can emerge only if the Palestinians were given a homeland. Restating India's considered view, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said the voice of the Palestinians is crucial in the peace process under the leadership of the their legitimate representative — the PLO. He was speaking at a dinner in New Delhi last night hosted in honor of the visiting minister of foreign affairs of the Yemen Arab Republic, Dr Ahmad al-Absbahi [title as heard].

Referring to the disturbing international situation, Mr Rao pointed out that the countries of the Nonaligned Movement are trying to seek the restoration of sanity and harmony and the creation of a new international order based on justice and equity.

The external affairs minister said that India attaches great importance to the friendly relations with its neighbors.

Letters Exchanged

GF151910 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, foreign affairs minister and secretary of the Standing Committee, who is currently visiting India, met with Indian President Zail Singh and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

SABA' news agency has learned that Dr al-Asbahi conveyed two letters from the brother leader secretary general of the General People's Congress to the Indian president and prime minister dealing with bilateral relations and ways to develop them and with Arab and international issues of mutual interest and the role of the Nonaligned Movement in these issues, since Mrs Gandhi is the current chairman of the nonaligned group. The Indian president and prime minister handed the brother foreign affairs minister two reply letters to the brother leader and Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, which contain an invitation to the brother president to visit India.

Joint Statement Issued

BK160449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] India and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] have voiced concern over the developments in Lebanon. A joint statement issued in New Delhi at the conclusion of the visit of the foreign minister of the YAR, Mr Ahmad 'Abd al-Asbahi, to India says there is complete unanimity between the two countries on West Asia, the Iran-Iraq war, the role of Nonaligned Movement and the new international economic order. The two sides have signed a cultural agreement for closer bilateral cooperation in art and culture, science, sports, public health and mass media.

French Minister on Cooperation in Nuclear Field

BK141025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] An Indian technical team is visiting France to study the latest French steel technology. The French minister for industry and research, Mr Laurent Fabius, told a news conference in New Delhi that a working group will also be set up to devise measures to improve the performance of the public sector in India, particularly with reference to the introduction of modern technology.

Mr Fabius described his talks with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and several other ministers as very fruitful.

In reply to a question, Mr Fabius said France is willing to increase its cooperation with India in the nuclear field. He said if the Government of India so wishes, France is prepared to send a mission to examine the present state of nuclear cooperation between the two countries and explore the possibilities of expanding it. The team can examine the entire area of nuclear cooperation. He, however, made it clear that details of nuclear cooperation were not discussed during his talks in New Delhi.

Rao Discusses Levels of French Aid, Trade

BK151411 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The lower house of parliament was informed today that France generally maintained its institutional aid level to developing countries, including India. The trade between India and France was worth over 55 billion rupees last year. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said that efforts are on to enlist cooperation of all developed countries sympathetic to the developing nations. He said, however, there is a tendency that whenever the United States cuts its contribution to international financial institutions, the developed countries follow suit.

Answering supplementaries, Mr Rao said on the question of Palestine and West Asia, the French President Mr Mitterrand's view is close to India.

Sikh Leader Reportedly Leaves Golden Temple

BK151613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A PTI report from Amritsar says that Mr Bhindranwale has vacated the Guru Nanak Niwas in the Golden Temple complex along with his followers. They are reported to have shifted to Akal Takhat this evening.

Sethi Puts Off Talks With Assam Agitators
BK151501 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has ruled out immediate resumption of talks with the agitation leaders in Assam on the foreign nationals issue. He was replying to the discussion in the Lok Sabha today on a bill to provide for tribunals for detecting illegal migrants in Assam. The house later approved the bill.

The house also rejected an opposition resolution moved by Mr P.K. Kodiyan of Communist Party of India, seeking to disapprove the presidential ordinance which the bill seeks to replace.

Mr Sethi referred to violent incidents in Assam and said these have caused a setback to the state government's efforts to bring back normalcy. The recent bomb explosions and the attempt on the life of the Assam chief minister indicate that the agitation has passed on to the hands of extremists. Mr Sethi said at this stage resumption of talks does not seem to have any relevance. He, however, pointed out that a large area of agreement was reached during negotiations held earlier with the agitation leaders and opposition parties.

Arrested Jammu Congress-I Members Released
BK160501 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] In Jammu, all the Congress-I men arrested during Wednesday's demonstrations have been released. The president of Jammu District urban Congress-I committee, Mr Om Chopra, who was among those arrested, has alleged that his partymen were beaten while in police custody.

Communist Party Criticizes Election Proposals
BK160455 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The Communist Party of India [CPI] has criticized the chief election commissioner's proposal to have president's rule in states a month before the assembly polls. In a statement in New Delhi, the central secretariat of the CPI said such a proposal will erode the independence of the Election Commission itself.

The Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborti, is also against the suggestion.

ICO Meeting on Scientific Cooperation Ends

BK161118 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] standing committee on scientific and technological cooperation ended its 3-day second meeting in Islamabad today. It adopted a resolution endorsing the plan of action aimed at increasing the capability of Islamic states in science and technology with a view to using their cooperative efforts for the socioeconomic development of the Muslim umma' [community].

The meeting was presided over by the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who was the chairman of the standing committee. The plan of action will now be submitted to the Islamic summit to be held in Morocco next month. The committee also approved for submission to the Islamic summit the rest of areas including food and agriculture, manpower development, research and development as outlined in the plan.

The resolution said that the committee recommended that the Islamic foundation for science, technology, and development be mandated to carry out feasibility modality studies in the 14 projects, including energy, water resource management, and ocean sciences. The committee also approved the establishment of an Islamic academy of sciences, the Islamic foundation of research institute and the association of universities of Muslim countries. The upgrading and expansion of the existing centers and institutions in the ICO member countries was also recommended to meet the requirements of the umma'. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in his capacity as chairman of the committee was asked to present a report on the deliberations of the standing committee and a resolution to the forthcoming Islamic summit emphasizing the urgency of action on its recommendation.

In his concluding remarks, the president said the application of the far-reaching decisions taken by the committee for the renaissance of science in the Islamic world would lead to increased productivity, reduce technological dependence on others, thus ensuring progress and security of the Islamic world as well as welfare of their people. The president gave a clarion call to make the 15th century Hegira a century of science and technology for the Muslim umma'. He said a structural mechanism has been identified during the deliberations of the current meeting of the standing committee for creating infrastructure for scientific and technological cooperation among Islamic countries. He said a science support fund had been proposed to serve as alternative source of funding for supporting creative scientific work and to provide institutional support to dynamic centers of scientific activities. He said he would be carrying all these projects for presenting them before the forthcoming Islamic summit.

Referring to the facilities at present available in the field of science and technology in some Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Malaysia, the president underscored the need for strengthening these facilities as well as the creation of new ones. The president said the need of the hour is consolidation of existing facilities as well as establishment of centers of excellence. He added as far as Pakistan was concerned, it would unreservedly offer to any Muslim country whatever facilities it has. He called upon the Muslim world to build its science and technological capabilities with a view to getting rid of total technical dependence without sacrificing its cherished values. He gave the warning against indiscriminate technological involvement in alien culture, which results in social unrest, cultural disruption, and conflicts with religious values.

The president said the Almighty Allah has blessed the 920 million people of the Muslim world with the best of resources, which has placed the umma' in a unique position for using the resources not only for the Muslims but also for the entire world.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, delegates from the Arab Republic of Yemen, Turkey, Guinea, and Indonesia, representing their respective regions, paid tribute to the president for leading the meeting to a logical conclusion as well as for the strides made by Pakistan in scientific field.

DAWN Examines Relations With India

GF111520 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Dec 83 p 7

[Editorial: "India's Strange Logic"]

[Text] The process of normalisation of relations between Islamabad and New Delhi, which had been initiated over a year ago, has once again suffered a setback. Objecting to Pakistan's acquisition of Harpoon missiles, India has launched a campaign of vilification against this country. Accusing Islamabad of intensifying the arms race by "introducing" new and sophisticated weapons in the sub-continent and thereby upsetting the military balance in the region, the Indian Government and media have taken upon themselves to level unfounded charges against Pakistan.

Ignoring Islamabad's repeated assurance that the recently acquired arms were simply designed to replace some of its obsolete weapons, Mrs Gandhi has no more than one occasion alleged that the "stockpile" of arms was meant to be used against India. The Indian prime minister's comments against Pakistan are unwarranted. Her objections to Islamabad's efforts to acquire a modicum of arms to modernise its defence system carry no weight, especially in the light of the formidable arsenal that the Indian Government has itself built up. Not only does India standing army. [as published] Its forces are also equipped with the latest weapons from the Soviet bloc and the West, making that country militarily the most powerful state in the region of Southern Asia. Last month, the Indian defence minister undertook a tour of four West European countries in preparation of what is reported to be an extensive programme for further enhancing New Delhi's defence capabilities. The Indian Government plans to acquire from Britain, France, Sweden and Austria latest weapons worth approximately 970 million dollars during the current financial year. The West, however, forms only a part of the Indian market while its main supplier continues to be the Soviet Union. Moreover, unlike Pakistan which purchases its armaments at market rates, India acquires military supplies from Moscow at highly concessional prices. This means that the real worth of its purchases is very much higher than what the price tag indicates. To top it all, India's highly developed indigenous

armament industry is expected to produce weapons worth more than 1.26 billion dollars this year.

Under the circumstances it is difficult not to be sceptical about Mrs Gandhi's professed fears that Pakistan's acquisition of modern weapons forms a redoubtable threat to India's security. India leaders have taken the stand that the arms Pakistan is acquiring are in excess of its defence needs. The logic behind the Indian argument is difficult to understand.

In the first place, New Delhi cannot arrogate to itself the right to determine Pakistan's security needs. Secondly, in 1981 when Mr. Narasimha Rao visited Islamabad, the two governments had categorically agreed that "each country had the sovereign right to acquire arms for self-defence." It has been explained time and again that Pakistan's modest arms purchases are intended for legitimate defence needs and are not motivated by any militaristic ambitions whatsoever. Thirdly, the Indian defence minister has clearly stated in the Rajya Sabha that the arms balance in the subcontinent is in India's favour.

Thus, it is clear that Mrs. Gandhi has other motives in raising the alarm against Paksitan's defence acquisition. While it is highly probable that some of the Indian prime minister's remarks are designed for domestic consumption, it should not be forgotten that such statements can have serious implications for Indo-Pakistan relations. They can jeopardise the incipient moves that have been made to improve bilateral ties. If Mrs Gandhi is really sincere about improving relations with Islamabad, she should be devoting her attention towards some confidence-building exercises. The attitude she has adopted will only help create an atmosphere of suspicion and discord. It would be a great pity if New Delhi allows the little progress that has been made towards normalisation of Indo-Pakistan relations be stalled or nullified simply because of compulsions of its own domestic politics.

There can be little doubt about the Pakistan Government's good intentions and its desire for peace with India. Over the last year or so it has taken several initiatives to demonstrate its goodwill towards its neighbour and still awaits a positive response from India to its proposal for an agreement to limit defence expenditure and reduce the existing level of their forces. Given the long history of mutual suspicions and misgivings, the only prudent course for the two states to adopt is to accept the principle of peaceful coexistence. Negotiations to foster closer political and economic ties can get underway only if an attempt is made to clear the atmosphere for a dialogue.

Baseless allegations and recrimination of the kind the Indian Government and a section of that country's press have chosen to hurl at Pakistan will not build the confidence necessary to promote detente.

MASHRIQ Comments on Need for Defense Vigilance

GF101501 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 30 Nov 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan in Whirlpool of Dangers"]

[Text] The new arms race which has been let loose by the strained and critical relations between the Soviet bloc and the Western countries owing to the deployment of American missiles in Europe will in due course become a source of danger for South Asia, particularly Pakistan.

National circles already are disturbed by the Indian armament craze. Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi is stockpiling the most modern arms by raising the bogey of American arms supply to Pakistan and the danger to India of an attack by Pakistan.

Pakistan will only get $3.25 billion worth of arms from the United States in the next few years, while the Indian prime minister arranged to receive arms worth $5 billion during her last June visit to the Soviet Union. She is due to pay another visit to Moscow next April.

Indian leaders never miss a chance to exploit the international situation. It won't be a wrong guess if she makes the best of the strained atmosphere which is bound to be created by the "missile crisis," and this would be in the form of getting more modern arms from the Soviet Union.

It would, therefore, be of utmost importance for the Pakistani authorities to draw the attention of the United States and other European powers to the new dangers which threaten Pakistan by the stockpiling of the most modern arms on its southeastern borders. In this respect, it would not be out of place for us to appeal for the Pakistani nation to be kept vigilant for any possible aggression from the Indian side.

These imminent dangers look more fearsome in light of those comments and analyses which come from Indian official observers and which speak of "a fourth and last war between India and Pakistan in the current decade, in which Pakistan will be crushed," and which also speak of the use of nuclear weapons. Analysts at the Indian "Institute of Foreign Defense and Analysis" give even routine defense exercises of Pakistan the color of "immediate attack, immediate attack," while other Indian official observers speak of 1980-1990 as a "decade of a decisive war." Indian mass media (pro-Indira press) play upon the American aid to Pakistan and spread baseless rumors and mischievous propaganda against our country. If, according to the Indian commentator Bhabhani Sen Gupta, there is going to be a war between India and Pakistan, in which nuclear weapons will be used, then these weapons will be used only by India, which after the 1974 explosion, may have manufactured nuclear weapons by now. Pakistan, a candidate for obtaining nuclear capability for peaceful purposes, has not yet even reached the stage of the first test explosion.

The daily growing war talk in India and the mischievous propaganda in India against Pakistan is not without reason. Pakistan is a peace-loving country and has followed this peaceful path from the very beginning. It was the Indian rulers who three times in the past made Pakistan a target of their naked aggression and finally divided Pakistan into two parts. It was Pakistan which, by ending the tension, tried to normalize relations between the two countries. It is Pakistan which has made the offer of signing a nonaggression pact with India. Unfortunately, the Indian rulers have given no reply to this offer. Instead of peace

and understanding, they have followed the path of mischievous propaganda and war talk.

The need of the moment appears to be that the authorities in Pakistan should reopen this question with the Indian rulers and try to find out from them why they are bent upon ignoring the principles of "Pancasila" conference [Bandung conference] and the Charter of the United Nations and also why they are unwilling to adopt a good neighbor attitude toward Pakistan on the basis of equality.

In conclusion, we would very much like to touch upon the daily growing dangers on the borders of our Northwest Frontier Province. The unusual presence of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan is already a grave danger for Pakistan, but this danger has gained an added edge by the construction of seven Soviet bases and the deployment of 100-km range Soviet nuclear missiles close to our borders. Repairs to military bases and deployment of atomic missiles coupled with Soviet unwillingness to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan is becoming a big challenge to Pakistan — a Pakistan which is the trailblazer of peace and understanding in the region.

MUSLIM Views Industries' Role in Defense

GF111150 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Cooperation Between Civil and Military Sectors"]

[Text] Inaugurating a three-day international seminar on defence technology at the Pakistan ordinance factory on Monday at Wah Cantonment, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, chairman joint chiefs of staff committee, said that it was absolutely necessary for the private sector to participate actively in defence production.

He pointed out that financial requirements for the undertaking were so stupendous that it was beyond the means of the normal government budget to meet all its needs. He stressed the imperatives of a linkage between defence industry and the civil sector as innovations in one sector could quickly be adopted by the other sector and the flow of feed-back could become a continuous process to the benefit of both. Such linkage already exists in international industrial environment and proves to be mutually beneficial to a great extent. He regretted that such close cooperation between military and civil efforts could not be established here so far.

As the general has said there is no reason why Pakistan could not make original innovations and improvements even in the conventional range of products. What was needed was an urge for research and for our engineers and workers to be imbued with quality consciousness. If this comes to happen, development facilities at least to the extent of the existing capacities for different kinds of arms and ammunitions for such arms could be augmented, and improved in respect of their range, fire-power and lethality.

It augurs well that a high officer, second only to the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces has realised and stressed the urgency of a linkage between the civil and military sectors of the land. The defence of the country is not the exclusive responsibility of the armed forces. The security and survival of Pakistan is, and should be, the prime concern of every national of the homeland. It is the duty of every citizen, man and woman, to contribute to defence endeavour. Such complementarity need not be kept confined to the production of arms and equipment. We strongly feel that when a country is at war, the nation is at war. And so if ever a moment of trial comes, battles may be fought on battle fronts, but the war has to be fought in farms and factories in the sense that efforts have to made to increase production everywhere on a war footing.

We would even urge the authorities to emulate the example of countries like China and Iran for that matter, which apart from their standing armies, have almost inexhaustible reservoirs of manpower equipped with the skills of war and are trained in the use of weapons. The concept of a nation-at-arms, which is familiar to many a country in the world, needs to be adopted.

Minister of State Discusses Oil Production

GF100808 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 83 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 1 (APP): Oil exploration activities in the country are being accelerated in order to achieve self-sufficiency in oil. This was stated by Minister of state for petroleum and natural resources, Dr. Mohammad Asad Khan while inspecting oil fields at Dakhni and Tut.

He said that the government attaches very high priority to energy sector and all out efforts are being made to discover new oil fields in the country. He said that mobile processing facilities will be introduced in the oil fields.

The minister further disclosed that two new wells at Tut will start production in about two weeks time and oil from these wells will be about 800 barrels per day.

About production from newly discovered Dakhni fields, he said, the output will start after about two years.

He, however, emphasised that we should also encourage the development of other sources of energy such as bio-gas and small hydro-electric units alongwith oil and gas exploration.

The minister said that offshore drilling will start in the near future and there are brighter prospects of oil in the coastal areas of Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Invites Political Parties for Talks

BK151327 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] President Jayewardene has invited nine political parties for a discussion to be held on the 21st of this month with regard to the proposed all-party conference. The discussion will be held at the cabinet office in Colombo.

The parties invited are: the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress, the political wing of the Ceylon Workers Congress, the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the Democratic Workers Congress, (Eelam Gei Tamil Arocho Katchi), the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, Sri Lanka Freedom Party, and the United National Party.

A number of matters, such as the date and venue of the all-party conference, the venues of subsequent meetings, political parties to be invited for the conference and the [word indistinct] will be discussed at the meeting of the 21st.

The president has requested secretaries of the nine parties to make available [words indistinct] at this meeting. Each party may send its leader and two other representatives.

TULF Not Invited

BK161120 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 16 (AFP) — The Presidential Secretariat has confirmed that the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and two banned political parties would not be invited to a meeting next week called to pave the way for all-party discussions on solving the island's ethnic problems. The two other parties excluded from next week's discussions were the People's Liberation Front (JVP) and the New Socialist Party (NSSP), both of which were banned in the aftermath of violence last summer between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils which left more than 370 dead.

Majlis Speaker Warns Kuwait, Gulf Countries

LD151218 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday morning warned Kuwait and countries in south Persian Gulf area not to become a prey for (Iraqi ruler) Saddam Husayn's trap.

Referring to Iraqi Wednesday missile attack on five Iranian cities, Rafsanjani noted that Saddam's recent move was made in the name of those (above mentioned) countries, urging them to condemn the act and thus be acquitted.

Speaking at Thursday's Majlis open session, he added that Saddam committed such a crime to retaliate explosions at the U.S. and French Embassies, [words indistinct] to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the Wednesday Iraqi attack against southwestern cities of Andimeshk, Dezful, Behbehan and Ramhormoz and on Nahavand, in the west, over 30 civilians were martyred, some 300 others injured, and many residential quarters destroyed.

In the latest Iraqi missile attack on a number of Iranian cities in the south, on Nov. 5, 1983, over 37 civilians were martyred, about 200 others injured, and several houses wrecked.

The Majlis speaker said that the U.S. President's argument was that since the group claimed responsibility for the explosion in Kuwait had an Islamic name and was also a supporter of the Islamic Republic, therefore, Iran should be responsible for the incident.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) would say that since Shi'ites and Palestinians, composing the majority in Kuwait, supported Iran, the Islamic Republic would have hands in there.

Such elaborations were only made to justify crimes such as the one Iraqi regime committed Wednesday, Rafsanjani said, adding that if such reasoning was accepted by the public opinion it proved people's negligence.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was courageous enough to undertake the responsibility for a measure it intended to embark on.

Rafsanjani pointed out that all the coasts of the Persian Gulf states were within the range of the Iranian artillery fire, adding that if the Islamic Republic was after adventures in the region, it would have done so.

Moreover, he added, Iran had reasons which were acceptable legally, religiously and internationally since those regional states were Saddam's partners in his crimes.

But, so far Iran had pardoned them and had not clashed with them and did not want to do so, the Majlis speaker said. It happened so in Lebanon when they tried to put the responsibility on Iran. (Oct. 23, 1983 explosion at the U.S.-French Marine base in Beirut).

He argued why those attributing such incidents to the Islamic Republic did not publish for the public opinion the information they claimed to possess.

The objective of such instigations was to force Iran to embark on a silly reaction, as they would themselves, and attack on Iraqi people, Speaker Rafsanjani said.

But, he emphasised, Iran would not act accordingly since the Islamic Revolution had its own targets and would not move blind-folded.

Condoling bereaved families of those martyred in Wednesday Iraqi missile attack the Majlis speaker said that the Iranian nation would preserve its patience, adding that even such patience had a limit which would be reached one day.

Joint Statement Promises Revenge for Iraqi Attacks

LD151324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Following the repeated missile attacks of the Zionist regime of Iraq against various towns in our country, a joint statement was issued today by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This statement says:

This time, on the orders of his masters including the criminal America and owing to the anger of world arrogance concerning the liberation movements of the deprived Muslims and other oppressed people of the world, whose natural outcome has been manifested in the form of explosions in centers connected with the great satan and the Socialist-Zionist French Government and the killing of a number of mercenaries, and in implementing Reagan's threats against the sacred Islamic Revolution, Saddam attacked the residential areas of a number of heroic Iranian towns and killed a large number of civilians.

By engaging in such actions and by declaring the Islamic Republic of Iran as the instigator of recent explosions in the centers connected with the great satan, world arrogance once again has revealed its blindness concerning the movements of the Muslims and oppressed people of the world for the sake of liberation from the yoke of East and West imperialism.

This statement concludes with condolences on the martyrdom of our compatriots from Dezful, Andimeshk, Behbehan, and Ramhormoz. This statement also stresses: The heroic children of the Islamic Revolution, the valiant soldiers, the self-sacrificing guards and devoted mobilization members, like the entire Islamic nation with their Islamic steadfastness and devotion, will continue their liberating fight until the achievement of final victory, the defeat and destruction of the Zionist Iraqi regime, and the liberation of the region from the evil of the criminal rulers of Baghdad, and they will take revenge on all the vile agents of East and West for the blood of these martyrs.

Kuwaiti Charge Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD151157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Kuwait's embassy in Tehran this afternoon was summoned to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran to meet with Mr 'Azizi, deputy minister of foreign affairs. In this meeting, referring to the acts of aggression of America, France, and the Zionist regime against the Muslim Arab nation of the region, the deputy foreign minister stressed: These acts of aggression are the causes of the suicidal operations by the Muslims of the region against the arrogant forces and their allies.

Referring to the missile attacks by the Iraqi regime against the residential areas of various cities in our country, he said: In view of the common interests of the Baghdad regime with those of America and world arrogance, it wishes to extend the tense atmosphere which prevails in the region. This time, too, as previously, by making use of the explosions in Kuwait, that regime has pursued its vile goals. The deputy foreign minister added: On the basis of a fictitious allegation, the Iraqi regime has settled the accounts of the attacks against imperialist interests in Kuwait with the wronged and innocent Iranian nation and the citizens of Iranian towns.

The deputy foreign minister emphasized: Attacking Iran's residential quarters on the pretext of defending Kuwait is an attempt to create more tension in relations between various countries of the region, to interfere in their internal affairs, and to aggravate the atmosphere of tension in the region. This attack will undoubtedly result in greater unity and will arouse the wrath of the Muslim Iranian nation and the Islamic nation, who will, of course, view any blows delivered against the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution as a blow delivered against them.

If lasting peace and security are to prevail in the region, you and all those who are interested in peace and well-being in the region should censure and condemn those attacks.

Velayati Addresses Ambassadors, Diplomats

LD151905 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Following Sunday's explosions in Kuwait and their attribution to the Islamic Republic, and after the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's missile attacks on Behbehan, Dezful, Ramhormoz, Andimeshk,and Nahavand, all the ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and diplomatic representatives of foreign countries and international organizations in Tehran came to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. Foreign Minister Velayati explained the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic and called on those present to convey Iran's standpoints to their governments.

Referring to Iraq's missile attacks on Iran's defenseless cities, the minister of foreign affairs said: In the past, Baghdad's ruling regime has continually used groundless pretexts for attacks against Iraq's populated areas as justification for the carnage meted out to the people in Iranian cities and villages. And this time, the background for Iraq's use of weaponry presented by the superpowers is the baseless claim of Iran's participation in the recent explosions in Kuwait and, so to speak, support for Kuwait and the Arab nations.

He added: We believe that Iraq's latest action could appreciably exacerbate tension in the region and impose new developments on the region. Stating the fact that the Muslim nations will construe every blow against the Islamic Republic as a blow again Islam, the minister of foreign affairs said: Pressure by global arrogance on the meek nations, particularly the Muslim nations, particularly by the United States, France, and the Zionist regime, becomes greater each day. The suicide movements, contrary to futile claims, do not stem from Iran or other countries, neither are they confined to 100 or 1,000 self-sacrificing Muslims in Lebanon or elsewhere. Rather, they stem from the depth of hatred and rancor of such deprived nations as Lebanon and Palestine, whose lands have been usurped and whose interests have been transgressed. It is axiomatic that no country, not even Iran, can direct the destiny of a self-generating movement against the interests of the hegemonists.

The foreign minister referred to the attacks on civilian regions in Iran as exactly tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of the region's countries. He said: This amounts to aggravating the climate of tension and insecurity between neighbors, openly siding with the goals of global arrogance, and blatant support for its interests in the region.

In conclusion, and emphasizing the resolve of Iran's Muslim nation to continue the fight against the Iraqi regime until final victory and retrieval of its just rights, and stressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in peace and security in the world, Velayati declared: By continuing peaceful relations with peace-loving countries and siding with them in the struggle against the ambitions of the arrogants and Zionists, we insistently call on all lovers of stable peace in the region not to be indifferent to the region's destiny and to condemn attacks by the Baghdad regime against the civilian population and populated areas and not to allow the sovereignty, independence, and security of the region's countries to become the victims of the Iraqi regime's satanic goals.

Foreign Ministry Notes Condemn Iraqi Attacks

LD160956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Following the barbarous attack by the Iraqi Zionist-Ba'thist regime on the cities of Dezful, Andimeshk, Ramhormoz, Behbehan, and Nahavand, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent notes to international organizations and forums, condemning the killing of innocent people in Iranian cities.

The notes separately sent to the UN, the International Red Cross Committee, and UNESCO, while referring to the dimensions of the latest crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime, state: That regime should have been condemned for violating human and international standards in its shameless attacks on civilian-populated areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran and necessary

measures should be taken by these forums to prevent a repetition of these crimes by the Iraqi regime.

The note sent to the United Nations reminded that following the visit by the UN delegation to the civilian areas destroyed by the Iraqi regime between 21 and 26 May 1983, and the release of the report by the secretary general of that organization, barbarous Iraqi attacks on the cities and populated areas have continued and the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on that organization to show its good will by once again dispatching a delegation to Iran to inspect the civilian areas bombed by Iraq after the first visit by the delegation.

The note sent by our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the International Red Cross Committee, while reminding it of the tasks entrusted to it in accordance with the four-man conventions in Geneva, called on the International Red Cross Committee to dispatch a delegation to Iran as soon as possible to inspect the cities and populated areas there.

Our country's Ministry of Foreign affairs also sent separate notes to the heads of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization, in which, while reminding them of the blatant contradictions between Iraq's peace-seeking claims and its criminal actions, called on these organizations after condemning these inhuman actions to place the text of these notes at the disposal of their member countries for their information.

Commentary on Kuwait Blasts, Iraqi Attacks
GF160702 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Everyone knows that Muslim Iran has denied any connection with the explosions in Kuwait, and the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has refuted the U.S. Administration's propagations that Iran is responsible for the explosions because it trains suicidal persons to carry out bombing missions all over the world. Everyone also knows that the current investigation in Kuwait on the perpetrators and planners of the explosions and has not yet produced any clear result.

How then do the Iraqi rulers give themselves the right to accuse Iran and to take revenge by launching brutal attacks against dozens of people who have committed no sin? Iraq's rulers stabbed the Palestinian revolution in the back by allying themselves with the Jordanian regime and with other reactionary regimes and are today supporting any capitulatory plan to liquidate the Palestinian cause. They were silent over the U.S. fleets' directing their fire at the innocent sons of the Lebanese people and they were inactive when the Zionist forces entered Lebanese territory to spread devastation and killing -- it was as if they were watching a [words indistinct] film. [passage indistinct]

Did the enemy of the people love Kuwait when he harmed Kuwait's security scores of times by invasion, explosions, and liquidating opponents, etc? Who is threatening the security of the Kuwaiti people except this rancorous enemy of all free peoples and his American masters who have been [words indistinct] to find a foothold in the region?

'Conference on Saddam's Crimes' To Open
GF151644 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 15 Dec 83

["Participants at Conference on Saddam's Crimes Arrive" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — A group of foreign personalities arrived here Wednesday evening at the invitation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) to take part in the conference on Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's crimes, and also ceremonies to mark the unity week.

An official at SAIRI's office here told IRNA that some 110 guests from 43 countries would take part at the conference to be officially opened here on Saturday.

Montazeri Receives Defense Minister, Majlis Speaker
LD152302 Tehran IRNA in English 1946 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Place names as received]

[Text] Qom, Dec 15, IRNA — The prominent jurisprudent, Ayatollah Montazeri, Wednesday received Colonel Salimi, the defence minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting Ayatollah Montazeri praised the role of the defence ministry and presented the minister with guidelines about promoting innovative research and encouraging the inventive talents in the field of defence and arms industry.

Also meeting with Ayatollah Montazeri here Wednesday were the Friday prayers leaders of Kashan, Yasuj, Deh Dasht, Gach Saran, Ramhormoz, Islamabad and Astaneh Ashrafieh.

During the meeting the Friday prayers leader of Yasuj presented to Ayatollah Montazeri a sum of 10 million rials (117,000 dollars) as well as over two and a half kilogrammes of silver and about half a [word indistinct] that had been donated by the committed people of Kahkiluyeh towards the war.

Meanwhile Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani met with Ayatollah Montazeri here yesterday to discuss various issues of the country.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,574
LD151754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,574 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Sending greetings to the clean souls of the innocent martyrs of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime's missile and air attacks on the cities of Dezful, Andimeshk, Behbehan, Ramhormoz, and Nahavand, the Joint Staff of the

Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran offers its condolences on this painful tragedy to the lord of the era — may God the most exalted hasten his noble advent — his rightful deputy Imam Khomeyni, and the Muslim and militant Iranian nation, particularly the families of the martyrs of this tragedy.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday in the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran operational regions and throughout the Panjwin region. As a result of our units' artillery fire, enemy traffic and activities were halted, two enemy trucks were destroyed, and 40 mercenaries were killed.

On the northwestern border fronts, one of our patrol groups penetrated enemy positions and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamists. In an operational region near Marivan, our units' artillery fire on the enemy's command headquarters and concentration centers resulted in several trenches, two vehicles, and several tents being destroyed and a number of enemy servicemen being killed or wounded. In the same region, a patrol of the forces of Islam penetrated the defensive positions of the Saddamists and clashed with a number of Iraqi servicemen, using light weapons fire, the enemy fled after having suffered some casualties. Our forces returned safely.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, our forces defended their positions and opened fire on enemy positions, resulting in some trenches and foxholes of the Saddamists being destroyed and a number of the enemy forces being killed. During a series of exchanges of fire on the banks of the Arvand Rud, our combat units opened fire on enemy assembly centers to the west of the river, destroying trenches, foxholes, and observation posts of the Saddamists.

Yesterday, enemy heavy and long-range weapons fire on the residential areas of Abadan, damaged three houses and shops.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA Reports Iraqi Planes Bomb Ilam Province

Ilam City Bombarded

GF151629 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Ilam, Dec. 15, IRNA — Several Iraqi planes bombarded the city of Ilam, 60 kms off Iran-Iraq border at 13:18 hours today. The Iraqi MiGs and Mirages attacked the city from all directions. While the precise casualty figures have not been so far released, it was reported that ten women and children severely hit by the shock waves of the explosion were being treated in hospital. There were two preganant women among the shock wave victims.

Dehloran Attacked

LD152054 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Ilam, Dec 15, IRNA — Some Iraqi raiding planes attacked the city of Dehloran, Ilam Province at 13:30 hours today, however no casualties and losses were inflicted on the city.

Also at 17:30 hours Wednesday, the city's airspace was violated by Iraqi planes which were intercepted by the Islamic forces air-defense units stationed in the city. The intruding planes were compelled to flee without carrying out any bombing mission.

Judicial Council Issues Circular on Verdicts

LD151929 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] At noon today in a press conference, Mr Moqtada'i, Supreme Judicial Council spokesman and member, discussed the performance of the Supreme Judicial Council over the past week. He said that a circular has been issued to the various branches of the high court. According to this circular, any verdict other than imprisonment or banishment issued for the Mohareb [those who wage war against God], the baghi [transgressors], or the mofsed [corrupt on earth] must be sent to the branches of the Islamic Revolution courts for approval.

Tabriz Prosecutor on Identifying Hypocrites

GF110708 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mirza Najaf Aghazadeh, acting prosecutor of East Azarbayjan, made a speech before the Tabriz Friday prayers sermons. The major portion of Hojjat ol-Eslam Aghazadeh's speech dealt with the hypocrites. He said: The experts and knowledgeable people who are surveying and analyzing the revolution are investigating and identifying the hypocrites.

If we want to save the revolution from danger, we must identify the hypocrites, because these people fight a new war every day and hoist a different flag every day. They remain hidden in order to harm Islam. These hypocrites get upset whenever the problems of the Islamic society are solved. So these hypocrites are always trying to create unsolvable problems for the Islamic society. Taking a wrong action instead of a right one is another characteristic of the hypocrites. We have seen this in the Islamic Revolution, when they wanted to put some wrong people near the imam of the nation and, as we have seen, when their plots have been neutralized.

Today the Islamic Republic of Iran is a very powerful country, because the government is not separate from the people. From the beginning of the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the plots hatched by world imperialism against this government were drawn up with the assistance of these people. If these plots had been aimed against the United States, that nation would now be in total disarray.

In concluding his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Aghazadeh wished for a long life for the imam of the nation and for final victory for the Islamic fighters.

Free Voice of Iran on Kordestan Fighting

GF090834 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 8 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots:— While Khomeyni's Islamic Republic endeavors to (?link) the 3-year-old Iran-Iraq war with the 4-year-old war in Kordestan and to depict it as an involvement with Iraqi forces in the western part of the country and [to prove] that for quite some time it has gained control over the Kordestan [word indistinct] region, the peshmergas of Kordestan are, in fact, foiling his plans.

With attacks one day in Mahabad, another in Bukan, and finally on the shores of Azar in Oshnoviyeh, the peshmergas have unmasked the fabrications by Khomeyni and shown that their movement has not subsided but has become more forceful and stronger. The regime's guards feel (?helpless).

On Arba'in [40th day of Moharram], the assembly places and centers of the guards in Oshnoviyeh were angrily attacked from various directions by the Kurd peshmergas. The Khomeyni forces, taken by surprise and losing heart, quickly surrendered the city to the peshmergas and fled.

The regime's leadership thought that with the start of the Val-Fajr IV operations they would be able to block any reinforcements for the combatant Kurd forces and consequently destroy them. Instead they found, contrary to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's claims that "we are the ones who always checkmate the plans and designs of the enemy" that the Kurds were frustrating the plans and designs of Khomeyni and his henchmen.

One misfortune of the regime is that for the past year and a half all its offensives against Iraqi territory have fizzled out and it has suffered heavy losses and casualties. The regime has made no headway against Iraq. Its great efforts have failed to shake the strength of the Kurdish forces and all its efforts during the past months have come to naught.

The Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] which plans the military campaigns against Khomeyni is justified in basking in its successes and in saying that the peshmergas of Kordestan — these valiant torchbeareres of the national liberation campaign — have put up a steel wall of resistance against the assaults of the enemy despite shortages and have inflicted decisive and shattering blows on the (?regime's) party with courage and fortitude. They have aroused the wrath of the leaders and the so-called pioneers on the path of freedom and justice. This in itself is a great source of glory for the Kurdish peshmergas and their supporters.

The policy of the Khomeyni regime from the beginning has been the same policy used by colonial governments for centuries in their colonies. This is the dictum of "divide and rule." If all the groups and sects which are opposed to Khomeyni and his regime would have united in the beginning, his regime would not have lasted for a year. But Khomeyni averted such a danger by sowing the seeds of discord in the early days. He wooed the people, parties, and groups in such a manner that when he struck the Jebhe-ye Melli [National Front] even Bazargan who was at its head did not utter a word.

It is only the KDP from among all the parties and sects in Iran which 5 years ago sensed the danger in time and warned all. It decided to defend its own existence with all its might. For 4 years it has persevered in its struggle and has not deviated for a moment. If today it says that it is only the unity of the freedom loving forces that can destroy the Khomeyni regime it is because it has felt the impact of this truth with all its nuances. It is clear today that if the freedom lovers unite and deal a final blow at an opportune moment, this cankerous tree will be felled and the mullahs will never be able to escape the clutches of the noble people who have faith in their righteousness.

Azarbayjan Front Reportedly Resumes Activity

GF111924 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] We have received a report that the Azarbayjan Democrat Faction [ADF] has resumed its activity. Our correspondent in Paris, quoting *KORDESTAN* magazine, official publication of the Central Committee of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, has reported that the ADF charter has had the word "independent" added to the former title and that the organization has stated that the fall of Pishevari's regime came about as a result of individuals who had turned the ADF into a provincial committee of the Tudeh Party. ADF is a socialist organization which advocates the formation of democratic republics in various parts of Iran.

Mehdi Bazargan Replies to Criticism

GF101937 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Nov 83 p 11

[Open letter written by Engineer Mehdi Bazargan in response to Dr Sheybani's written criticism dated 22 November]

[Excerpts] Old and dear brother Dr 'Abbas Sheybani, I read your open and undated letter — which was superficially addressed to me and our joint friends in Nehzat-e Azadi, but was directly addressing public opinion — as published in the 12 November issue of *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* and then in *ETTELA'AT* and other publications. I said to myself: Whatever comes from a friend is welcome. I was surprised and am grateful that after months, nay, years, your party's paper has not referred to me or Nehza-e Azadi with malice and unkindness and that the questions and the opinions you have issued are, as a whole, logical and thought out instead of accusatory and insulting. Congratulations!

The issues you have brought into question were numerous and rather fundamental. I will try, with the help of the Almighty, to reply to them while attempting to hold the length of the reply down to 1 and 1/2 times the length of your article so as to avoid boring the readers.

1. You noted the past and asked whom I was struggling against now. I pray to God that our past struggle was to his liking and

was a service to the nation and the country. What I can add is that now all those faithful to Nehzat-e Azadi, at least in their own opinion, have not changed this goal nor have we an eye on wordly goods. If we were objecting to dictatorship and insults against the Lord then and if we demanded the government and liberty of the nation, national independence, and government of the law, we are doing the same now and have done so since the revolution and the resignation of the interim government. Fortunately, the system of government and the Constitution have become a more Islamic and republican system now!

2. The proximity of the elections has neither warmed us up or cooled us down. It is the press harnessed by the government or the semiofficial press and some officials who have created such an uproar concerning our very simple and legal demand that the elections be free for the Iranian people. It is they who attach meaning to our words and resort to creation of confusion, insults, allegations, and isolation. It is they who say there is "liberation" and no suffocation. If this is so, then let us have newspapers, say our words like others, have contact with people, and not have the mass media and government press beat us in our absence. Or at least, let us have the opportunity to reply to such cases. Nehzat-e Azadi refrained from holding a seminar on the orders of the Interior Ministry and even avoided holding a private meeting. How come assailants forcibly and under the direction of officials entered our premises and plundered our belongings and documents? Why were a number of us beaten up and then when our beaten Majlis deputy complained in the Majlis, why was he answered with punches and kicks? Worst of all, why have they put words in our mouths stating: We are hungry for reelection? As if it is illegal in the Islamic Republic to become a candidate — something I have not become since I said before that I am too old. Or they say that we are trying to disrupt the elections since we know we will not be getting any votes! There are even some who have assumed the role of God and report on our thoughts and emotions, saying that we are using the freedom of elections as an excuse to oppose the Islamic Republic, deal blows against it, and aid the foreign enemies.

In my preagenda speech of 20 August, I said that a truly free election means that now, without any fanfare and according to the Constitution, all those for and against should be allowed to write, speak, hold assemblies, rallies, and all people of the nation should be free to express their opinions, criticisms, and select their representatives and be lawfully guarded against allegations, arrests, insults, threats, and attacks. If such conditions are not logical or not advisable and there is no chance of ensuring freedom and legality of the elections, then the officials in charge should openly state this and let the people know where they stand. If these requirements are to be ensured, then instead of shouting there is freedom and answering to this, it should just be given to the people. There is no need for any fight!

3. You say that we used to wonder about freedom in the past. Do you remember that during the course of the military court trial in 'Eshratabad one of the main arguments of the prosecutor against us was that we had chosen the name Nehzat-e Azadi [freedom front] for ourselves in an attempt to state that in the imperial land there is no freedom! They labeled this an act against the security of the country. Well dear Dr Sheybani, in the 5th year of the Islamic Republic should we still be questioned as to why we used the words "ensuring freedom" in our invitations to the seminar or in the title of the seminar?

Yes, we accept that in the referendums, elections to the constitutional assembly, and during the first round of Majlis elections, freedom and security were available within all normal criteria. However, given the current circumstances, what proof is there that future elections will be held in circumstances similar to those of the past? During the elections for the present Majlis, a number of us from Tehran and the majority of the deputies from minorities participated without any problems and obtained large number of votes and I do not see any need to show proof when informing you that the present situation is not like it was then. We are not beating our chests for ourselves, but we want free elections and security for all the people, especially for the groups that have been scared away, terrorized. For those in the nation who have become disappointed, we want them to feel that the revolution has not been lost and that any Iranian whether for or against it can have a role in the destiny of the country. We want them to consider that the deputy who is sitting in the Majlis on their behalf is their representative and is a person voicing and reflecting their needs and desires.

Of what are those who claim to have the 36 million-strong nationbehind them afraid? Do we have charms and magic or machineguns and knives to force people or memorize them? It is certain that if they were not afraid of the popular support and attention paid to us, they would not try to stop our lawful activities and would not use all the means at their disposal to attack us so.

4. I was surprised by your statement which said: Do not allow yourselves to be called agents of division and dissent in the history of this revolution. That is the main point at issue and the subject of my complete concern. If creation of dissent means disagreeing with the opinions and current methods or some of the leaders, then I don't believe — from legal or shari'a points of view and according to repeated remarks by the imam, Ayatollah Montazeri, and Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani — that this is a wrong act or traitorous. On the contrary, it is a normal situation in any free, humane, and Islamic system. Unless you state that since your system is holy and Islamic and its officials innocent and thus unable to commit any wrong or ignorant act, then disagreement with them or making any suggestions is an objection against the Lord or His messenger. Logically, you should not have such an opinion. Even resorting to the statement that our government is involved in battle against the internal and external shysters and no one should say or do anything is not logical or in reality to a rightful act.

Such remarks that noncompliance or criticism — even though it is polite, logical, and conciliatory, something we have always received the opposite of — are aiding Saddam's cause, feeding the propaganda machinery of the United States, or soiling the pure blood of the martyrs are baseless logic and excuses used by dictatorships. In the former system, you, we, and a number of present officials were arrested on the basis of similar excuses and under the same sort of propaganda.

5. However, if by saying dissention and opposition you mean the breaking of the unity and feelings which were the secret of the

victory of our revolution, then I agree with you totally and oppose anything of that sort. You know, as indeed everyone else does, that the slogan of the movement, its belief, and actions has always been "together." So let us not let it become "everyone with me" after the revolution. Let us not dissect unity, a politically united nation, or a socially or nationally and religiously united nation by the use of various pretexts such as party, philosophy [maktab], nation, delegation, direction, front, clergy, intellectuals, and so on, and let us avoid bringing the Islamic Republic to a dead end by replacing Islamic unity and brotherhood with dialectic Marxism, destruction, criticism, and monopolism.

6. We have no disagreement on the imposed war and the fact that we should not surrender to the wishes of the world oppression.

7. The Nehzat-e Azadi has not changed its charter or policy and has never made "welfare" its sole aim. It is not diverting from its ultimate goal, which is the move toward the Lord through faith, piety, and service to the masses.

The conversion to Islam of the Iranian people and the people of the world and basing their prayers and actions on the Islamic faith and teaching has always been our deepest wish. However, what we want, what the Almighty likes in his people and has stressed to His messengers, is a free and meaningful religion based on faith, not on force and pressure. It is true that since the revolution we have gone forward a great deal in our adherence to the shari'a and the name and flag of Islam are seen everywhere and that the flames of sacrifice have intensified among certain classes and age groups. However, are you aware that on the average a large number of hearts, hopes, and faith have turned on Islam? Have you ever wondered what will remain of your present "happy" situation if the current forces are removed? There are many indications that there are many today, including those of the devoted clergy, who are more worried about Islam — respect for and faith in it at home and abroad — than about Iran and its people.

8. One of the ways that Satan uses and the way to become immersed in ignorance is to constantly air remarks about interference by the United States, Europe, and others, and with accusations, insults, and simplemindedness consider all issues solved without any ponderance, thought, or analysis or to call us deceived, immersed in the small opposition, well-to-do, and hypocrites and consider yourselves the only concerned and knowledgeable ones who have achieved enlightment and are the masters of the country.

9. At the end of your letter, you noted some points that make me congratulate the propaganda machinery and the power of repetition of the monopolized organization. That sort of propaganda has brainwashed Dr Shybani too! Friend, when did I approve of the hypocrites — or Mojahedin-e Khalq? Have you not read my book, "The Blight of Monotheism" or my articles in *MIZAN*? Are you unaware of their attacks and blows which were first of all concentrated on the interim government and Nehzat-e Azadi before any other group?

10. You have used the issue of my calling the then Mojahedin-e Khalq and today's hypocrites children of Nehzat-e Azadi another instance of my "guilt" and compared it to sharpening the pen for a criminal judge.

How surprising! Did I only call them the children of the Nehzat or considered the followers of the philosophy to be their blood brothers? Correctly or misguidedly I was attempting to propose a humane, mild, logical, and islamic solution even as a last ditch effort to the issues which later had calamitous results for the nation and the country and caused the destruction and the bloodletting that was brought to our revolution and soiled it from both sides. Now you are calling me an accomplice to the crimes that I was foreseeing and attempting to circumvent. What powerful propaganda and suggestion! Hadn't Martyr Beheshti called them "parts of my own body" and didn't Ayatollah Montazeri say: They are likely my own children? Even if the statements are wrong, why should Engineer Bazargan bear the blame for everyone? The leadership should accept the fact that the presence of an opposition is necessary and of value and creates corrections and strength. The Lord Almighty will never forgive the suffocation of the people — such an enormous treachery — under the pretext of counterrevolution or anti-Islam.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Analyses

GF111718 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Nov 83 P 11

[Editorial: An Excuse Worse Than the Crime]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. You have read the text of Mr Bazargan's reply. On the surface this was supposedly a reply to questions raised by Dr Sheybani. However none of the questions were answered satisfactorily. Although Dr Sheybani is entitled to a reply to Mr Bazargan, yet let us take a look at the questions raised and see which of these were answered by Mr Bazargan.

1. Whom is Nehzat-e Azadi operating against at the moment?

2. Who are the individuals that Mr Bazargan thinks require his support to succeed in the Majlis elections?

3. Why have Mr Bazargan and his cronies brought the Majlis elections under question and thus follow the policies of the leftists and nitpickers?

4. Is the standard for freedom of elections the one those claiming to be supporters of freedom of elections should be elected in the next Majlis elections?

5. Why doesn't Mr Bazargan bow to the grandness and the power of this revolution and only put his finger on the weak points — just like the enemies of this revolution — and thus change criticism to excuses?

6. Why did Nehzat-e Azadi approve some individuals in the spring of 1981 — who even then were busy creating street incidents, assassinating hezbollahi figures and those concerned for the revolution — whose masks fell away some months later as a result of physical assassination and the hunt of hezbollahis?

Now it is advisable for our dear readers to again read Mr Bazargan's replies and judge which of Dr Sheybani's questions have been answered satisfactorily. It is unfortunate that Mr Bazargan and his colleagues have reached such a political dead end that they are trying to prove themselves by denouncing others just like the Western political parties and especially its French versions. They are unable to stress their strong points since they hardly have any and thus always look at the shortcomings and want to become champions of the struggle against the shortcomings! However, it is not France here and Mr Bazargan should be told this and the fact that it is illogical for Nehzat-e Azadi to repeat the mistakes of the refugee Bani-Sadr and resort to French-style rumormongering.

It is certain that individuals who believe in parliamentarian struggle cannot realize the immensity and delicacy of a full-fledged confrontation with the aggressive East and criminal West. Even though they claim to believe in the immense dimensions of the epic created by the combatants of Islam in the war, their praise of the prideful state of the revolution is limited to the sentence, "Death, misery, destruction and animosity have never been nor will be goals of Nehzat-e Azadi."

Can one accept that those who utter such remarks believe in the epics full of bravery and sacrifice in the fronts? Should those who warn the makers of such statements that this is aiding Saddam's cause be labled "dictators?" Should those who warn Mr Bazargan not to supply food for the propaganda of foreign radios and the sworn enemies of this revolution be put in the same place as the shah? Mr Bazargan has used an excuse worse than the crime and has discredited himself by such unfaithful statements.

Mr Bazargan should realize that the point of separation of Nehzat-e Azadi from the people is clear from such statements and it is impossible for the people to send individuals to the Majlis who would legitimize the war against the revolution through its tribune. It is certain that the faithful is unlikely to be bitten twice from the same hole. The biggest sin of the officials of the Islamic Republic is that they have stated this fact in a political language and have stressed that — considering their knowledge of the people — people will never vote for those who approved of the criminal hypocrites. If Mr Bazargan calls such people "dictators" due to malice the people know them as those concerned for the revolution and the martyr-nurturing nation and will continue to believe in them. God willing.

Reportage on Afghan Mujahidin Activities

GF091333 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Within the framework of the continuation of their struggle against the Soviet occupation forces and the Afghan Government forces, the Muslim Afghan mujahidin killed 12 members of these forces in Qandahar Province in southern Afghanistan and destroyed a Russian tank. Six Afghan soldiers joined the Muslim mujahidin following these battles.

The Soviet invasion forces and the forces of the ruling regime in Afghanistan (?strafed) a hospital belonging to the Muslim rebels near the city of Ghazin in eastern Afghanistan. They then destroyed the hospital.

Casualties Cited

LD131025 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Mashhad, Dec. 13 (IRNA) — Afghan mujahideen in their struggle against occupying forces killed 211 joint Soviet and government forces during the current month, it was reported Monday.

The report said during various clashes and at various places the mujahideen inflicted heavy losses on the occupying forces.

The mujahideen, destroyed four police stations, one tank, four vehicles and also shot down two helicopters of the occupying forces, the report said.

The mujahideen, the report added, also seized 560 various types of arms and 30,000 cartridges from the joint Soviet-Afghan forces who were occupying Afghanistan.

Another report said that nine mujahideen and fifty two defenceless civilians were martyred when the occupying forces bombarded the civilian areas.

Interior Minister on Meeting With Afghans in Iran

LD112251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Interview with Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri by unidentified correspondent following meeting at Interior Ministry of representatives of Afghan societies and parties in Iran; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Nateq-Nuri] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful: Some of the people in charge of Islamic Afghan groups and parties had requested a meeting. The session was held today. Following the recent incidents, they had raised an issue which, fortunately, was the same as the views of the country's authorities. That is, they were also worried about certain spies and hooligans who have infiltrated the ranks of the Afghans here, and on occasion, have committed crimes for which the Muslim and struggling Afghans have been blamed. They expressed their anxiety over this; following which, I said a few words and expressed Iran's stance toward the struggling Afghan brothers.

It was also agreed that they should step up their cooperation to identify these hooligans, God willing, so that those corrupt and undesirable individuals, who are marring the reputation of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, who are fighting against world arrogance in Afghanistan, can be identified; so that our nation can distinguish between these corrupt ones and the industrious and struggling Afghans. A decision was made. God willing, the council for coordination of Afghans in Iran will cooperate more with these gentlemen, and they will cooperate more to identify the hooligans.

[Correspondent] Would you tell us what steps the government has taken so far to solve the problems facing the Afghans living in Iran?

[Nateq-Nuri] As I have previously said in some interviews, the identity card was more beneficial to our Afghan brothers and sisters than it was to us. That is, it was a step toward distinguishing between hooligans and normal, good people. This was done and the crime level dropped. Our Afghan brothers and sisters warmly welcomed the identity card. This also made their travel easier.